

September 2011
7th grade science- Mr. Liberti
White House

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I'd like to welcome your child to the second half of my 7th grade science class. I'm looking forward to continuing to prepare your child for 8th grade. Because of this we are going to be making a few policy changes. Please review this letter with your child, sign the slip and have them return it.

I. Units of study:

Terms 3: States of matter and Properties of Matter

Term 4: Earth, Sun, and Moon systems; the Universe, light, and energy

II. My grading policy is as follows:

HW counts 10%

Tests/projects count 30%

Quizzes count 20%

Labs and Binders count 30%

Classwork/Preparedness 10%

III. Homework expectations:

Homework is 2-3 times per week on average. **Full** credit is given for homework done *correctly, neatly, and turned in on time*. However **significant credit** is available for homework completed neatly, on time and with honest effort. Late homework will be accepted the next day for a maximum of 70% and 2 days late for a maximum of 50%, unless we go over it in class. If we review the homework in class, I will accept it the next day for a maximum of 50%. Very limited exceptions to this policy may be made on a case by case basis.

IV. Tests/Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given 2-4 times a month and tests will be given 2-3 times per quarter. These will cover information from class work, readings, labs and homework. Study Guides will be given before all tests.

V. Projects, labs and papers

During each quarter at least one paper and multiple projects and labs will be assigned. These will be structured so that some work is done both at home and at school and exact instructions and due dates will be given for each. Late work in this category will be accepted at a loss of 8 points per day up to a week (5 days) late, at which point it will not be accepted.

VI. Binders: Students will keep all lab write ups, class work, homework, tests/quizzes, labs and other resources in their binders until turned in for grading. The binder will be graded at the midterm and conclusion of each quarter. Please be sure to check with your child to be sure they have not lost their binder.

VII. Preparedness:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn and participate. All Students should come to class with their binder and any assignments due, as well as with a pencil and pen. This section also includes class work grades.

VIII. Online resources

I will maintain a class website. This website at minimum will list our current assignments and offer resources to students and parents. It is my hope that the scope of this resource will grow throughout the year. The website can be found at <http://themadscientist.wikispaces.com> Students who are absent or in need of an extra copy should go to our website.

IX. Behavior:

At the beginning of the year each class worked together to create a behavior contract. I still expect all students to adhere to these class created guidelines and expectations.

X. Leaving the classroom

As a white house team we have decided that the first five minutes of class will be considered a grace period for students. During this time students may go to their locker, the bathroom, to get a drink etc. Once this five minute period has passed students will only be allowed to leave for emergencies. We believe that this will create the fewest interruptions to our class as well as be fair and realistic to students.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you and your child and hope that our collaborative efforts will make for a rewarding second half of 7th grade science. I believe that communication is very important and I can be reached at cliberti@tivertonschools.org. The school phone number is 624-6668. Please review this with your child and sign and return the tab on the next page.

Thank you,
Chris Liberti

Parents,

Please sign and return to show you have read it with your child. Keep the rest of the paper for reference.

My child, _____, and I have read and discussed this paper that outlines Mr. Liberty's curriculum, grading policies, and behavior expectations.

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____